



OHIO

January 10, 2018

The Honorable Bill Coley
Chair, Ohio Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Coley:

On behalf of the 23,000 governing members of the National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio (NFIB/Ohio), I am writing in support of Senate Bill 220, specifically the legislative intent of encouraging more businesses, particularly small businesses, to implement an industry standard(s) for cybersecurity.

A typical NFIB/Ohio member employs 25 or fewer and does less than \$2 million in gross receipts. Our members come from every industry type, every county, and every legislative district. If there is a type of business in operation, we likely count one as a member.

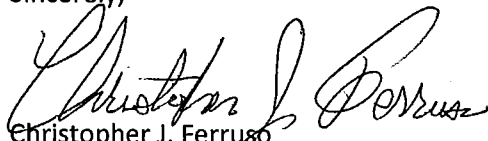
Protection of customer information is incredibly important in the traditional and cyber marketplaces. While a majority of our members have bricks and mortar places of business, many also have an online operation to reach beyond the local and regional customer base to establish a nationwide or worldwide presence. Paramount to success is the protection of customer data and information. Although our members strive to achieve this security, unfortunately, cybercriminals are sophisticated.

Senate Bill 220 implicitly states the position of the state of Ohio to encourage more businesses to establish a minimum cybersecurity standard and in doing so affords the ability to assert an affirmative defense if faced with a lawsuit. Further, the mechanics of the bill will diminish the need of the General Assembly to continually enact new legislation when cyber-industry standards and protocols are updated. This important provision allows Ohio to keep pace with the newest protections.

We applaud Sens. Bacon and Hackett for raising awareness of the importance of cybersecurity through Senate Bill 220. We believe encouraging businesses of all sizes to implement best practices will serve to protect the identities of customers and consumers better.

Thank you for allowing us to submit comments on Senate Bill 220.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Ferruso
Legislative Director